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# Economic and Social Council

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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

**Seventieth session**
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Item 4(b) of the provisional agenda*
**Management issues: programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015**

## Programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015

### Note by the secretariat

*Summary*

The present document contains the proposed changes to the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 (see E/ESCAP/69/16 and Corr.1) for which a legislative decision of the Commission is sought.

The proposed changes are designed mainly to address new mandates adopted after the Commission's endorsement of the programme of work for 2014-2015.

The Commission may note that the proposed changes will contribute to the achievement of the expected accomplishments and have no additional regular programme budget implications.

The Commission may wish to consider the proposed changes with a view to endorsing them for incorporation in the programme of work for 2014-2015.

* E/ESCAP/70/L.1.

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## Proposed programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015

| Output in the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 | Proposed change | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| **Subprogramme 1. Macroeconomic policy and inclusive development** | | |
| **Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:** | | |
| (a) Enhanced understanding among policymakers and other target groups of development trends, emerging issues, macroeconomic challenges and evidence-based policy options that promote economic growth, reduce poverty and narrow the development gaps | | |
| **Field projects:** | | |
| *PB156694*<br>Enhanced capacity of policymakers and senior government officials to formulate regionally coordinated macroeconomic policies to ensure sustained recovery, to mitigate the effect of future crises and to sustain dynamic and inclusive development (2014-2015) (RB/XB) (1) | *Delete* | The project was completed in 2011-2013. Elements of this project will be implemented in 2014-2015 through "Developing a regional financial and monetary architecture in Asia and the Pacific in support of global financial reforms" (10/11AR) funded from the United Nations Development Account. |
| **Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:** | | |
| (c) Improved capacity of member States, in particular countries with special needs, to design and implement development policies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action and internationally agreed development goals | | |
| **Training courses, seminars and workshops:** | | |
| *PB156691*<br>High-level policy dialogues on promoting regional and South-South cooperation between Central Asian economies and other countries in the region, with a focus on countries with special needs, as part of the implementation of the follow-up to the Almaty Programme of Action (50 participants) (2014), (50 participants) (2015) (RB/XB) (1) | *Delete* | Lack of extrabudgetary funding |
| **Subprogramme 4: Environment and development** | | |
| **Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:** | | |
| (c) Strengthened regional cooperation and networking on environmental, energy and water and urban policies and strategies for inclusive and sustainable development | | |

| Output in the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 | Proposed change | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| **Substantive servicing of meetings:** | | |
| *PB 156834*<br>Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific: plenary (2015) (RB) (10) | *Modified to:*<br>ESCAP Committee on Environment and Development: (a) Substantive servicing of meetings: Committee on Environment and Development: plenary (2015) (RB) (6) | To ensure alignment of the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development with the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, which will be determined by the General Assembly at its seventieth session, the secretariat proposes (a) the postponement of the seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific from 2015 to 2016 and (b) the convening of the Committee on Environment and Development in 2015 in lieu of the Ministerial Conference. This would also allow the Committee to serve as part of the preparatory process leading up to the Ministerial Conference. |
| **Parliamentary documentation:** | | |
| *PB 156833*<br>Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific: report on the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (2015) (RB) (1) | *Modified to:*<br>ESCAP Committee on Environment and Development: report of the Committee on Environment and Development (2015) (RB) (1) | Ditto |
| *PB 156835*<br>Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific: report on issues related to the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (2015) (RB) (1) | *Modified to:*<br>ESCAP Committee on Environment and Development: report on major issues related to environment and development (2015) (RB) (1) | Ditto |
| **Technical material:** | | |
| *PB 156851*<br>Outcome document of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (2014) (RB) (1) | *Modified to:*<br>Analytical studies to support the implementation of the outcomes of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (2014, 2015) (RB/XB) (2) | The outcome document of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum Vladivostok, 27-30 May 2013 (E/ESCAP/APEF/3), which contains both the Ministerial Declaration and Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for |

| Output in the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 | Proposed change | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| | | Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific, was issued in 2013. To support the implementation of these outcomes, the secretariat proposes the preparation of analytical studies, based on data and information gathered through the review process. |
| **Subprogramme 6: Social development** | | |
| **Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:** | | |
| (b) Enhanced regional cooperation and capacity in implementing international commitments to promote social integration and social protection, particularly for vulnerable social groups, in Asia and the Pacific | | |
| **Field projects:** | | |
| | *Added:* Social protection systems, including income support for older persons (2014-2015) (RB/XB) (1) | In pursuance of ESCAP resolution 67/8 on strengthening social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific and 69/14 on the implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. The project is funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea. |
| **Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:** | | |
| (d) Enhanced regional cooperation and capacity to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific | | |
| **Field projects:** | | |
| | *Added:* Promoting disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management in Asia and the Pacific (2014-2015) (RB/XB) (1) | In pursuance of Goal 7 of the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. The project is funded by the Government of Japan. |
| | *Added:* Promoting accessibility of the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (2014-2015) (RB/XB) (1) | In pursuance of Goal 3 of the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. The project is funded by the Government of China. |

| Output in the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 | Proposed change | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| **Subprogramme 7: Statistics** | | |
| **Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:** | | |
| (b) Increased capacity of ESCAP member States to produce, disseminate and use statistics in accordance with internationally agreed standards and good practices in support of progress towards inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies. | | |
| **Substantive servicing of meetings:** | | |
| *PB 162393* | *Modified to:* | The modified title of the output better reflects the purpose of the meeting and the expected participants, in line with ESCAP resolution 69/15 on implementing the outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. |
| Joint Forum of Ministers responsible for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (2014) (RB/XB) (10) | Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (2014) (RB/XB) (10) | |
| **Parliamentary documentation:** | | |
| *PB162395* | *Modified to:* | The modified title of the output reflects the modified title of the intergovernmental meeting in PB162393 |
| Joint Forum of Ministers responsible for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific: report of the Joint Forum of Ministers responsible for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (2014) (RB/XB) (1) | Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific: report of the Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (2014) (RB/XB) (1) | |
| *PB162396* | *Modified to:* | Ditto |
| Joint Forum of Ministers responsible for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific: reports on issues related to civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific (2014) (RB/XB) (1) | Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific: reports on issues related to Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (2014) (RB/XB) (1) | |

| Output in the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 | Proposed change | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| **Ad hoc expert groups:** | | |
| | *Added*:<br>Meeting of Experts in Preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (2014) (RB/XB) (1) | The change reflects the need for a comprehensive preparatory meeting to conduct preliminary negotiations on the draft outcome document of the Ministerial Conference. The experts gathered at the meeting will consist of Permanent Representatives to ESCAP, members of the Regional Steering Group on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, and members of the civil registration and vital statistics partnership of international organizations and international non-governmental organizations as well as other experts. The outcome of the Meeting of Experts will be submitted to the Ministerial Conference for its review. |